CSDE Mask Guidance Update

BOE Meeting
2/24/2022

CSDE Guidance Documents

Transitioning to a Model of Routine Respiratory Disease Prevention and Enhanced Outbreak Management and Control for COVID-19 in PreK-12 School Settings

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/PreK-12-COVID19_Transition-Routine-Prevention-Control_02182022_FINAL.pdf

Considerations for Boards of Education, District Administrators, and other Local Decision-Makers Regarding Potential Changes to School COVID-19 Policies and Practices

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/PreK-12_Guidance-for-Mask-Decisions_School-Districts_02182022_FINAL.pdf

Questions to Consider - CSDE

1. What does the available data indicate regarding the community and district prevalence and transmission of COVID-19?
2. What is the risk tolerance for the possibility of increasing case numbers and necessary quarantine and isolation in your students and staff?
3. What is the current COVID-19 vaccination status of students and staff within individual schools and across the district, and what is the current COVID-19 vaccine coverage for the surrounding community?
4. What additional planning is necessary to address the needs of students and staff who may be at greater risk for adverse health outcomes?
5. What additional guidance is necessary to ensure support for students and staff who may wish to continue mask wearing?
6. What processes need to be in place for continuous risk assessment and prompt decision-making regarding COVID-19 policies and mitigation strategies (including mask use) going forward?
7. What advanced contingency planning needs to occur to prepare for potential surges and/or outbreaks?

Question 1

What does the available data indicate regarding the community and district prevalence and transmission of COVID-19?

See next three slides:

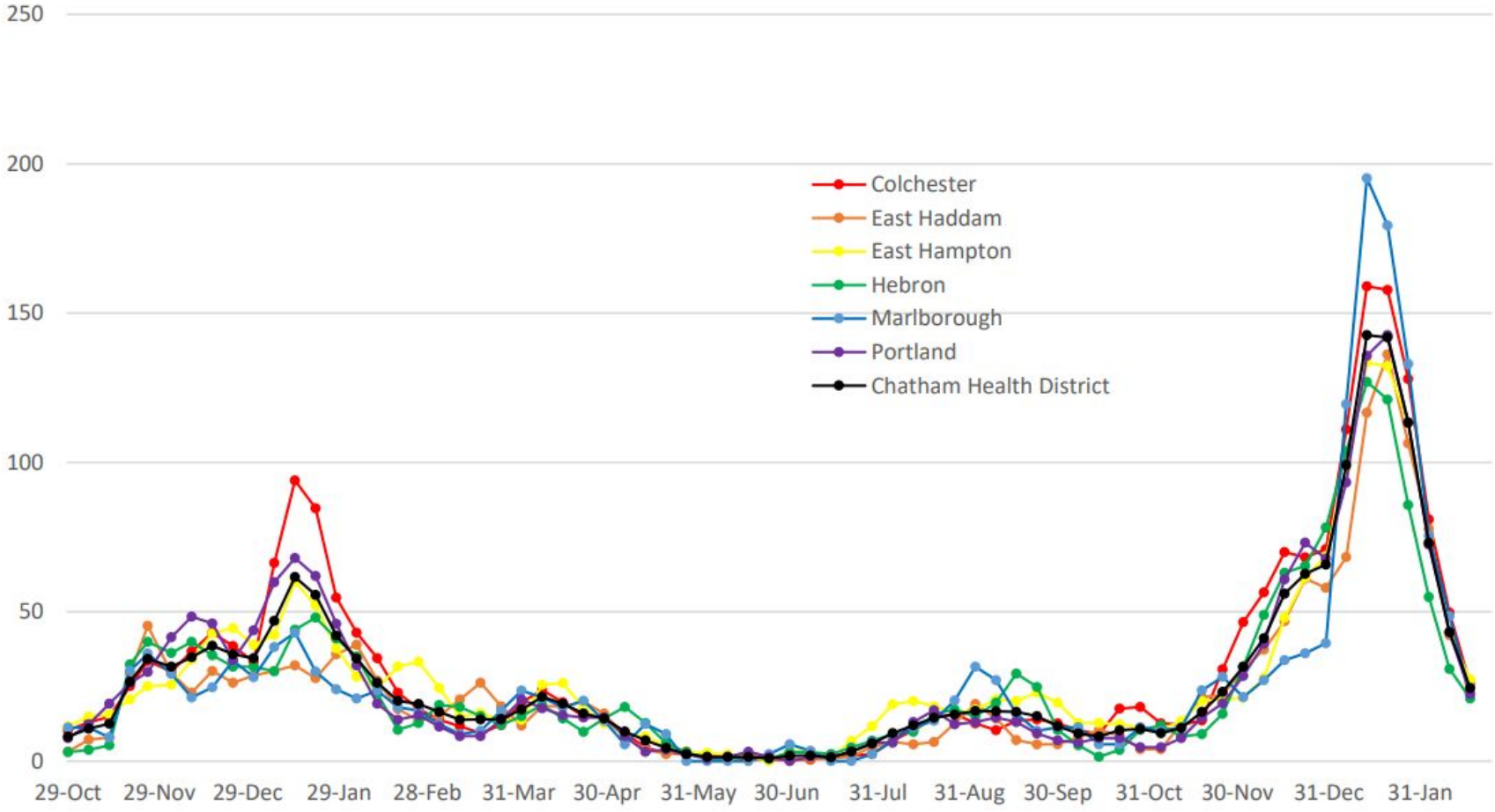
Dashboard

(DPH reporting period: 1/30-2/12)

Town	Alert Status	Average Daily Case Rate #/100,000 population	Number of Cases	Change in Number of Cases
Colchester	Red	25.8	57	-53
East Haddam	Red	26.2	33	-20
East Hampton	Red	27.3	49	-28
Hebron	Red	21.0	28	-13
Marlborough	Red	22.6	20	-23
Portland	Red	22.4	29	-27
Chatham Health District	NA	24.5	216	-164

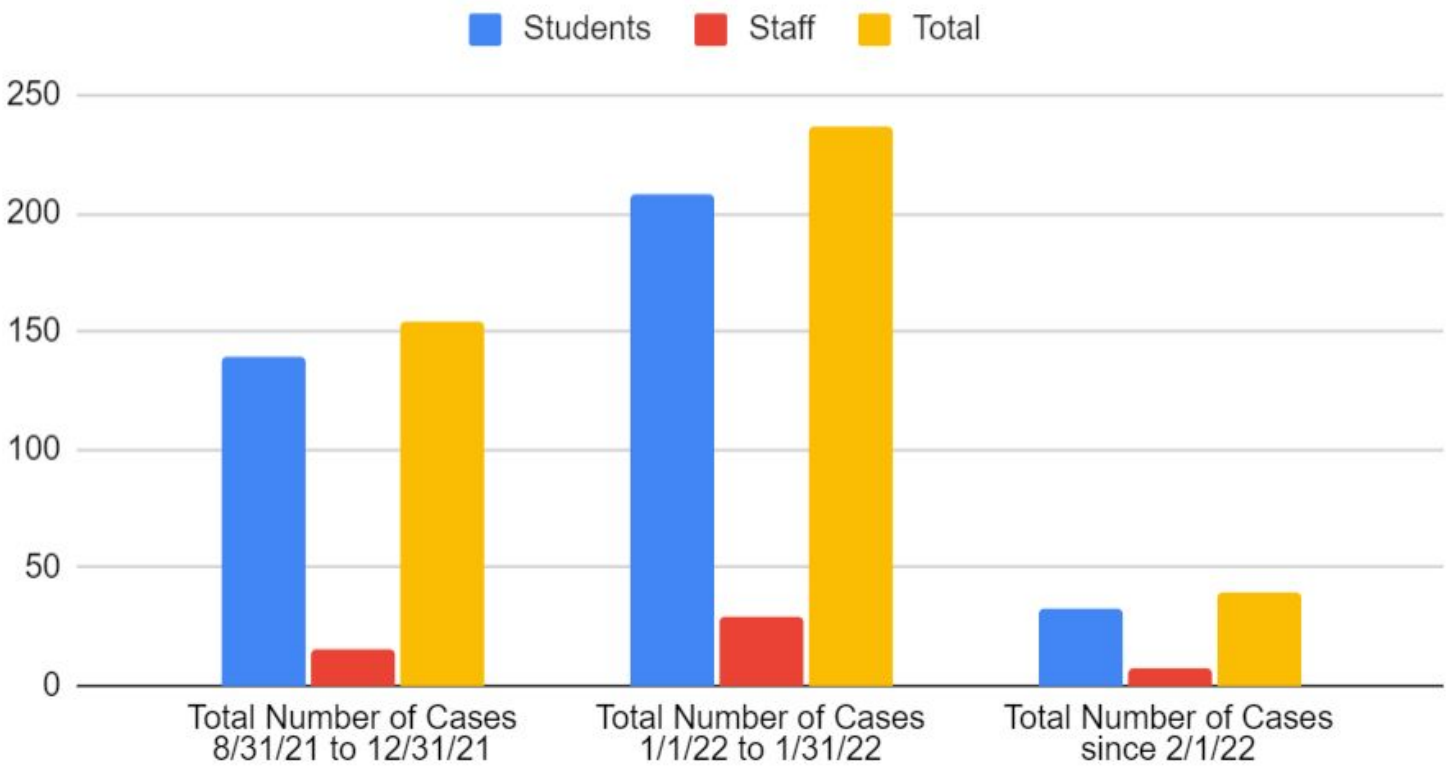
Increased from previous week
Decreased from previous week
Unchanged from previous week

Average Daily Case Rate by Town (# of cases /100,000)



CPS COVID Cases & Quarantine

(updated 2/22/22)



Question 2

What is the risk tolerance in your school district for the possibility of increasing case numbers and necessary quarantine and isolation in your students and staff?

A. The district will not change our current instructional model or our current practices on positive cases. Staff and students will still be required to isolate for 5 days if positive. We will continue to monitor the number of cases on a daily basis and implement mitigation strategies as needed (see Q. 7).

   Follow existing quarantine guidance for masks for days 6-10 (or isolate)

Question 3

3. What is the current COVID-19 vaccination status of students and staff within individual schools and across the district, and what is the current COVID-19 vaccine coverage for the surrounding community?

The community vaccination rate is approximately 76%

Current staff vaccination rates are approximately 96%.

See next slide for other information.

Age-Specific Vaccination Rates as Reported by CT DPH on 03Feb

This table will be updated on 3/4/22

Initiated Vaccination (%)	Age Group					
Town	**5-11**	**12-17**	**18-24**	**25-44**	**45-64**	**65+**
Colchester	41.0	65.3	81.1	84.0	84.7	100.0
East Haddam	29.6	59.4	91.6	74.6	75.4	100.0
East Hampton	41.9	80.6	84.8	76.6	79.1	100.0
Hebron	36.2	54.8	97.0	82.2	81.7	100.0
Marlborough	40.5	80.3	100.0	78.8	80.5	100.0
Portland	51.8	71.9	87.1	85.6	84.4	100.0
Chatham Health District	40.4	67.6	88.3	80.6	81.1	100.0

Fully Vaccinated (%)	Age Group					
Town	**5-11**	**12-17**	**18-24**	**25-44**	**45-64**	**65+**
Colchester	33.5	62.6	73.2	77.0	81.0	100.0
East Haddam	18.7	56.1	79.8	69.0	71.0	100.0
East Hampton	35.7	77.3	76.8	71.2	75.5	100.0
Hebron	29.5	52.6	87.3	76.4	78.3	100.0
Marlborough	32.8	76.0	99.8	72.9	76.6	100.0
Portland	45.0	69.4	79.3	81.0	80.4	100.0
Chatham Health District	32.9	64.7	80.2	74.8	77.3	100.0

Question 4

4. What additional planning is necessary to address the needs of students and staff who may be at greater risk for adverse health outcomes?

A. Students and staff with specific health issues will be addressed on an individual basis and given appropriate supports as needed. High level masks such as N95 masks will be available, fit-testing of those will be provided as requested, and support to families on how to discuss N95 mask use with their medical provider.

Question 5

5. What assistance can be provided to students and staff making personal decisions regarding mask wearing?

A. If masks are optional at some point this school year, all staff and students will be supported in their individual choices.

Question 6

6. What processes need to be in place for continuous risk assessment and decision-making regarding COVID-19 policies and mitigation strategies (including mask use) going forward?

A. The district will continue with daily monitoring and reporting of cases. We will continue to urge staff and families to report positive cases to the school and CHD. The district may reintroduce contact tracing limited to high risk activities such as lunch, etc. (See question 7)

Question 7

7. What advanced contingency planning needs to occur to prepare for potential surges and/or outbreaks?

A. The district will work closely with Chatham HD and our medical advisor to monitor positive cases and determine if a surge or outbreak is occurring. If a surge does occur, mitigation strategies can be reintroduced by class, grade or school as necessary on a temporary basis.

Other Considerations

CIAC Sports Guidance:

http://www.casciac.org/pdfs/CIACUpdatedWinterandSpring2021-2022COVID_Feb_18_2022.pdf

Continued mask mandates on buses per federal law

Students/staff may return on day 6 if there are no symptoms will wear a mask for days 6-10, which is still recommended by DPH and the CDC (or isolate)

DPH will retain the authority to impose a universal mask mandate if there is a local or state-wide need due to an outbreak. Local school districts also maintain that ability to institute mask wearing due to local conditions.

Other Considerations Continued

Staff surveys

Parent communications

Parent Survey